

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201257753
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 20, 2012
County: Genesee County DHS (02)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Janice G. Spodarek

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; and MCL 400.37 upon claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held. Claimant was represented by [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services (DHS) properly deny claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On December 1, 2011, claimant applied for MA with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS).
2. Claimant applied for 1 month of retro MA.
3. On February 9, 2012, the MRT denied.
4. On February 22, 2012, the DHS issued notice.
5. On May 21, 2012, claimant filed a hearing request.
6. On July 23, 2012, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) denied claimant. Pursuant to the claimant's request to hold the record open for

the submission of new and additional medical documentation, on 2/4/13 SHRT once again denied claimant.

7. Claimant indicates he believes he has been denied SSI by SSA on the grounds of excess assets.
8. Claimant is a [REDACTED]-year-old male standing 5'10 tall and 205 weighing pounds. Claimant indicated at the hearing that he lost approximately 65 pounds during the last 12 months due to his medical state.
9. Claimant does not have an alcohol/drug abuse problem or history. Claimant does not smoke.
10. Claimant has a [REDACTED] and can drive an automobile.
11. Claimant has a [REDACTED].
12. Claimant is working. Claimant works approximately 3 to 4 hours a day as he is self employed and makes special accommodations for him [REDACTED]. Claimant indicated he is working approximately 20 hours per week at \$ [REDACTED] to \$ [REDACTED] before deducting approximately 25% in costs. Claimant is doing contract work for [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. Claimant does get some appointments with [REDACTED].
13. Claimant alleges disability on the basis of congestive heart failure (CHF), myocardial infarction (MI), hypertension and diabetes.
14. The July 23, 2012 SHRT findings and conclusions of its decision are adopted and incorporated by reference herein/to the following extent:

[REDACTED], November 5, 2011 – November 10, 2011, page 12, discharge: rule-out MI, new onset CHF, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and obesity; ejection fraction 55%; medical management only.

[REDACTED], November 2, 2011 – November 17, 2011, page 91: CHF exacerbation; tests indicate MI; cardiac catheterization notes left anterior descending artery 95% stenosed, stent placed.

The medical evidence of record indicates that the claimant's condition was severe at onset but is not anticipated to prevent gainful employment for a period of 90 days or greater. The claimant would reasonably be limited to the performance of light exertional tasks.

Recommendation:

Denied per 20 CFR 416.920(e).

15. The February 4, 2013 subsequent SHRT decision is adopted and incorporated by reference herein/to the following extent:

Medical Summary...newly presented...

[REDACTED]: stable examination, complains of balance issues.

[REDACTED], May 23, 2012, ECHO: ejection fraction 60-65%, normal findings.

[REDACTED], June 18, 2012, MRI: post-questionable CT, normal brain, possible evidence of microvascular disease.

[REDACTED], July 26, 2012, office visit: no difficulty ambulating; 5/5 strength throughout, EMG consistent with diabetic neuropathy.

Recommendation:

Denied per 20 CFR 416.920(e).

16. Claimant testified at the administrative hearing that he can engage in his general activities of daily living on a daily basis.
17. Claimant testified that he could lift 40 to 50 pounds.
18. Claimant testified that his doctors are satisfied that his diabetes is under control. Claimant is going to or is undergoing B12 shots for dizziness.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In order to receive MA benefits based upon disability or blindness, claimant must be disabled or blind as defined in Title XVI of the Social Security Act (20 CFR 416.901). DHS, being authorized to make such disability determinations, utilizes the SSI definition of disability when making medical decisions on MA applications. MA-P (disability), also

is known as Medicaid, which is a program designated to help public assistance claimants pay their medical expenses. Michigan administers the federal Medicaid program. In assessing eligibility, Michigan utilizes the federal regulations.

Relevant federal guidelines provide in pertinent part:

"Disability" is:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.... 20 CFR 416.905.

The federal regulations require that several considerations be analyzed in sequential order:

...We follow a set order to determine whether you are disabled. We review any current work activity, the severity of your impairment(s), your residual functional capacity, your past work, and your age, education and work experience. If we can find that you are disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, we do not review your claim further.... 20 CFR 416.920.

The regulations require that if disability can be ruled out at any step, analysis of the next step is not required. These steps are:

1. If you are working and the work you are doing is substantial gainful activity, we will find that you are not disabled regardless of your medical condition or your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b). If no, the analysis continues to Step 2.
2. Does the client have a severe impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more or result in death? If no, the client is ineligible for MA. If yes, the analysis continues to Step 3. 20 CFR 416.909(c).
3. Does the impairment appear on a special Listing of Impairments or are the client's symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings at least equivalent in severity to the set of medical findings specified for the listed impairment that meets the duration requirement? If no, the analysis continues to Step 4. If yes, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(d).

4. Can the client do the former work that he/she performed within the last 15 years? If yes, the client is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 5. Sections 200.00-204.00(f)?
5. Does the client have the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) to perform other work according to the guidelines set forth at 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Sections 200.00-204.00? This step considers the residual functional capacity, age, education, and past work experience to see if the client can do other work. If yes, the analysis ends and the client is ineligible for MA. If no, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(g).

At application claimant has the burden of proof pursuant to:

...You must provide medical evidence showing that you have an impairment(s) and how severe it is during the time you say that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.912(c).

Federal regulations are very specific regarding the type of medical evidence required by claimant to establish statutory disability. The regulations essentially require laboratory or clinical medical reports that corroborate claimant's claims or claimant's physicians' statements regarding disability. These regulations state in part:

...Medical reports should include --

- (1) Medical history.
- (2) Clinical findings (such as the results of physical or mental status examinations);
- (3) Laboratory findings (such as sure, X-rays);
- (4) Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms).... 20 CFR 416.913(b).

...Statements about your pain or other symptoms will not alone establish that you are disabled; there must be medical signs and laboratory findings which show that you have a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...The medical evidence...must be complete and detailed enough to allow us to make a determination about whether you are disabled or blind. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

Medical findings consist of symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings:

- (a) **Symptoms** are your own description of your physical or mental impairment. Your statements alone are not enough to establish that there is a physical or mental impairment.
- (b) **Signs** are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which can be observed, apart from your statements (symptoms). Signs must be shown by medically acceptable clinical diagnostic techniques. Psychiatric signs are medically demonstrable phenomena which indicate specific psychological abnormalities e.g., abnormalities of behavior, mood, thought, memory, orientation, development, or perception. They must also be shown by observable facts that can be medically described and evaluated.
- (c) **Laboratory findings** are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena which can be shown by the use of a medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques. Some of these diagnostic techniques include chemical tests, electrophysiological studies (electrocardiogram, electroencephalogram, etc.), roentgenological studies (X-rays), and psychological tests. 20 CFR 416.928.

It must allow us to determine --

- (1) The nature and limiting effects of your impairment(s) for any period in question;
- (2) The probable duration of your impairment; and
- (3) Your residual functional capacity to do work-related physical and mental activities. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

Information from other sources may also help us to understand how your impairment(s) affects your ability to work. 20 CFR 416.913(e).

...You can only be found disabled if you are unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be

expected to result in death, or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. See 20 CFR 416.905. Your impairment must result from anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques.... 20 CFR 416.927(a)(1).

It is noted that Congress removed obesity from the Listing of Impairments shortly after the removal of drug addition and alcoholism. This removal reflects the view that there is a strong behavioral component to obesity. Thus, obesity in-and-of itself is not sufficient to show statutory disability.

Applying the sequential analysis herein, claimant is not ineligible at the first step as claimant is not currently working. 20 CFR 416.920(b). The analysis continues.

The second step of the analysis looks at a two-fold assessment of duration and severity. 20 CFR 416.920(c). This second step is a *de minimus* standard. Ruling any ambiguities in claimant's favor, this Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds that claimant meets both. The analysis continues.

The third step of the analysis looks at whether an individual meets or equals one of the Listings of Impairments. 20 CFR 416.920(d). Claimant does not. The analysis continues.

The fourth step of the analysis looks at the ability of the applicant to return to past relevant work. This step examines the physical and mental demands of the work done by claimant in the past. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

In this case, the undersigned ALJ concurs with SHRT in finding claimant not eligible for statutory disability on the basis of step four of the sequential analysis pursuant to the issues and considerations found at 20 CFR 416.920(e).

In reaching this conclusion, it is noted that while claimant clearly had severe issues, as defined per 20 CFR 416.920(c) under the evidence herein, as well as general medical expectations, claimant's condition is improving and/or expected to improve 12 months from the onset date of surgery. Thus, as there is no listing claimant meets, claimant would not meet duration or in the alternative after can do his past relevant work. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

In fact, claimant is doing his past relevant work. Claimant works on a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. Claimant's hours fluctuate.

Claimant is a very pleasant individual who activities of daily living are not constrained and do not interfere with claimant's ability to engage in work or work like settings. The medical evidence take as whole does not rise to statutory eligibility based upon federal

law and state policy. 20 CFR 416.913. Thus, this ALJ must uphold the Department's denial.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department's actions were correct.

Accordingly, the department's determination in this matter is **UPHELD**.

/s/
Janice G. Spodarek
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 18, 2013

Date Mailed: March 19, 2013

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the mailing date of the rehearing decision.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error , or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant;
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision

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Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

JGS/tb

cc:

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the names of the individuals listed in the 'cc:' field. The redaction is complete, obscuring all text underneath.